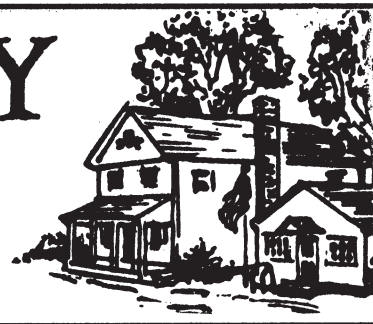




MONTEREY NEWS

June 2006
VOLUME XXXVI • Number 6



Maggie Leonard

David McAllester (1916–2006) as Chief Konkapot in 1997 Memorial Day Parade.

The Town

Town Hall

The May 8th Select Board meeting opened with Select Board member Jon Sylbert nominating and newly elected Select Board member Wayne Burkhart seconding a motion to appoint Michael Storch as Select Board chairman for the next year. After his appointment, Chairman Storch welcomed Burkhart to the Select Board while expressing great optimism about a productive year at Town Hall.

Storch explained to Burkhart how the first hour of Select Board meetings is devoted to reports given by town employees, typically Director of Operations Maynard Forbes, Police Chief Gareth Backhaus, Building Commissioner Don Torrico, and Town Secretary Melissa Noe.

At the May 8th meeting, Treasurer Pat Mielke told the Select Board that auditors were spending a week at Town Hall performing a general purpose audit done typically every four or five years. Town Accountant Barbara Gauthier introduced Kevin Fox, the senior auditor, who said that unless there are loose ends when the auditors depart, the town can expect a draft report for fiscal 2005 in June.

Storch asked that the Select Board send a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Goetschuis, thanking them for their prompt response in repairing the problem with the stonewall on their property at 4 Tyringham Road.

Town Secretary Melissa Noe announced that the new Select Board member, Wayne Burkhart, was nominated to serve on the Wilson-McLaughlin Scholarship Fund committee at the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. As the Select Board's newest member, Burkhart was also given the responsibility of overseeing "I Love Monterey Day." And,

at his request, he was appointed as the town representative to the Transportation Advisory Commission, which is part of the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Noe requested information on how to remove outdated records kept by the Town Clerk.

The Canon copier representative recommended that Town Hall lease a new copier when the four-year lease on the current one is up in June. After discussing various options, the Select Board decided to "buy" the one currently in use for \$1, and continue using it with a service contract. Storch noted that there has been a "dramatic" decrease in use of the copy machine now that people must have a code number to use it.

Noe requested permission to buy Photoshop Elements so she can put more digital pictures on the town website. She was asked to request the funds after July 1.

Linda Thorpe resigned as the temporary employee who fills in when the Town Secretary is ill or on vacation, and as the employee who sells transfer station stickers on Saturdays. Storch noted that Thorpe has been an integral part of the town offices for many years, and hopes to

persuade her not to resign these positions. Nonetheless, the Select Board will advertise for someone to fill the positions.

Finance Committee member Debra Mielke reminded the Select Board that notices must be sent to all departments that independent contractors must submit proof of insurance for Workmen's Comp and general liability to the Town Secretary and the Town Treasurer. Burkhart amplified by suggesting that such a notice be sent to all town boards and commissions, along with governance rules for the boards, such as committee organization, each year. Sylbert suggested that a letter be sent to all boards and commissions reminding them that state law mandates they submit minutes of all meetings.

Mielke also noted that anyone who works in town or who sits on a board or commission must sign a conflict of interest letter. She will contact Town Clerk Barbara Swann for information on how to proceed.

The Select Board discussed the minutes from the annual Town Meeting, wondering why they had been filed before any board member had seen them. Sylbert asked how the minutes are verified, and where and how they are officially submitted. The Select Board will ask Town Counsel about the process for taking and approving the minutes of the Town Meeting. Storch will call the state to find out if the minutes should be posted publicly.

Highway Department

In early May, Director of Operations Maynard Forbes reported that the Highway Department is picking up the last of the trees felled by Tamarack, the company hired to trim trees. The department is grading roads, fixing the Dahlman's driveway that was damaged in last fall's flood, and installing CO detectors in Bally Gally, which will probably end up with a 500-gallon gas tank. The department cleaned culverts on Sandisfield, Brett, and Royal Hemlock Roads after the rains when the beavers plugged them up with sticks, mud, and grass.

Forbes announced that Monterey will receive about \$120,000 in Chapter 90 funds for roads from the state this year. The money is allocated on the number of miles of roads in each town. To receive the funds, the Highway Department makes a proposal, does the work, and is then reimbursed by the state. Chapter 90 money is not included in the town budget.

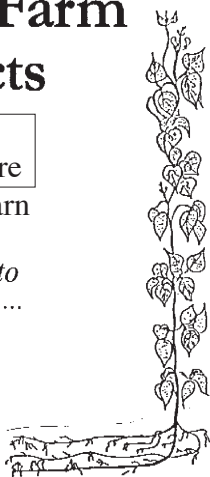
The Chapter 90 money will be allotted to the reconstruction of Sandisfield Road, scheduled to begin in June, concentrating primarily on drainage work. Forbes said that the road will be open during reconstruction. The footprint of the road will remain the same; guardrails will be added, and some areas will be reclaimed. There are no plans to cut trees. Work on Curtiss Road will also be done with funds from Chapter 90.

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Route 23 must be resurfaced, which will be financed by a TIP (Transportation Improvement Project) grant. At this point, the project is on the list to be funded, but money may not be made available until next year. The River Road bridge project will start as soon as the Notice to Proceed has been given by the state. Work on Fairview Road is scheduled for July.

Town Accountant Barbara Gauthier told the Select Board that FEMA has given or will give \$169,000 to help pay for the October 2005 flood damage. Additionally, MEMA will contribute 12½ percent of the repair cost, enabling the town to correct the damage without cost to the budget.

Storch and Sylbert will conduct visits with Forbes to inspect salt sheds in neighboring towns. Discussion continues on electrifying the ball field, and finishing the work on Town Hall.

Sylbert is pressing for resolution of the Bally Gally affordable housing issue. The application involves a description of the property, its square footage, the number of bedrooms, and type of heat. Sylbert asked Forbes for such a description as soon as possible. Before Bally Gally can become legally approved affordable housing, the town must also report on how the house will be rented and what type of lottery system will be used.

Forbes, the Select Board, and two members of the Finance Committee met to discuss new and better ways for the town budget to be put together, a discussion initiated after Forbes said he felt he had been excluded from his department's budget determination. Forbes pointed out that his department's budget is the second



Stephen Rose

Memorial Day 2006 in Monterey.

largest item in the town budget (after the school budget), and the largest over which the town has any control.

Finance Committee member Debra Mielke explained that in seeking budgetary transparency, her committee had to estimate various difficult-to-project components, such as winter overtime and supplies. The committee based its projections on averages, but Mielke noted, "It's still a guess."

At the May 22nd Select Board meeting, Forbes said that American flags will be placed along Route 23 before Memorial Day. They remain in place through July 4, and then may be taken down until Labor Day when they are displayed again. Forbes noted that keeping them on display all summer shortens the flags' lives, but

Storch expressed his preference for a summer-long display, such as Tyringham provides.

Dick Tryon volunteered for the Salt and Sand Committee he understands is being formed by the Select Board. After Burkhart recommended having the Director of Operations do background research on the subject, Storch appointed Burkhart as the Select Board liaison to such a committee. Burkhart articulated that Tryon's "strong voice" should be heard on the committee. Tryon recommended Bill Johnson as a member to help do the research.

Building Department

Questions about if, how, and when the Town Secretary works for the Building Commissioner continue after the lengthy discussion of the various components of the Town Secretary's salary at the annual Town Meeting. Town Counsel Jerome Scully notified the Town Secretary that her job description may include duties regarding a number of departments and boards, and may specify an hourly rate or salary.

In response to Torrico's question on how to proceed with the computer program recommended by the town committee that looked into his job responsibilities, it was suggested that he contact Bill Johnson for further information.

Storch asked Torrico to calculate the total fees his department receives

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for permits, as well as the total of the estimated cost of the projects. Storch also recommended more communication between Torrico and Gould Farm.

Torrico informed the Select Board that he had been required to attend a court case in the Southern Berkshire court about a Home Improvement Contractor dispute. He wants to insure that all homeowners who take on the responsibilities of a general contractor must disclose that someone else is doing the work, and must provide a Workmen's Compensation affidavit. If the work is not done correctly or needs to be changed, the homeowner is responsible, not the person hired to bring the structure up to code. He recommends that homeowners always hire a licensed construction supervisor who is registered as a Home Improvement Contractor.

Torrico said that he will send a letter to all real estate agents in town to officially notify them of the bylaw prohibiting "For Sale" signs off-premises. If such signs are not removed within a specified time frame, the realtor will be fined.

Police Department

A major focus of local police work in May concerned the fatal automobile accident on Sandisfield Road on May 15. By measuring the skid marks, the state agency that investigates accidents reported that the car had been going 109 mph. Tests showed that the victim's alcohol level was .175, more than double the .08 legal limit. At

the May 22 Select Board meeting Chief of Police Gareth Backhaus announced that charges will be filed against one of the parties involved in the fatal accident.

Other police activities during May include a disabled vehicle on Hupi Road, a loose cow in the vicinity of Gould Road, a complaint about dirt bikes on Mt. Hunger Road, an alarm on Hupi Road set off by painters, an alarm on Main Road set off by electricians, an assisted medical call, a call about suspicious activity concerning two vehicles trespassing on someone's property, another loose cow, an illegal burn, a lockout on Mt. Hunger, a downed tree on the wires over the line on Blue Hill Road, and a lost golden retriever puppy.

Backhaus reported on an attempted break-in on Swann Road, which was particularly disturbing because the alleged perpetrators cut the phone and power lines in an attempt to disable the alarm system. Backhaus said this was the first such incident in Monterey in his eighteen years of local police work.

Is a sick animal on residential property the responsibility of the homeowner or of the town? The question arose after Backhaus informed the Select Board that he had authorized a local subcontractor to handle a sick skunk because the Police Department is not equipped to dispose of such an animal. But Backhaus noted that in general, sick animals are the responsibility of the homeowner, who must call a professional to rid the property of

the problem. The town, however, takes responsibility for the disposition of rabid animals. Backhaus and the Board of Health will discuss the appropriate procedures for the Animal Control Officer, the Police Department, the Board of Health, and the homeowner. Backhaus noted that contractors called by the town must be licensed and insured.

Noe told the Select Board that the Board of Health asked that a refrigerated and locked place to store triple-bagged dead rabid animals be provided in Town Hall.

After Dick Tryon asked Backhaus and the Select Board about the car for sale that had been parked across from the General Store in the wrong direction, the car was moved as directed. Tryon also requested that the Police Department maintain a speed control presence in the center of town on summer weekend mornings.

During the discussion of summer weekend traffic and the lack of parking places in the center of town, Tryon noted that the bottom step of the General Store is on town property, which led the Select Board to consider asking building owner Riccardo Boehm and store owner Kenn Basler to discuss with them eliminat-

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ing the step and adding a railing on the front of the porch. Chairman of the Park Commission Leroy Thorpe suggested that parking spaces directly in front of the store be painted sideways for easier access. Another suggestion involved allowing only small cars to park in front of the Store. Burkhart suggested that however the situation is handled it should be done by cooperation, not fiat.

A short discussion ensued about carving an entrance to Greene Park from Fox Hill Road.

This and That

Storch told Leroy Thorpe that the Select Board had contacted CET (Center for Ecological Technology) about a renewable energy light for the Greene Park ball field, a necessity following the wire cutting that the contractors did when Town Hall was renovated. Thorpe's most immediate concern is that the electrical box be moved out of reach of small children.

After complaints from town employees about the wildly uneven heating in Town Hall, Storch said he would call CET to assess the situation and recommend corrections.

Wildblue Communications, a Colorado company, informed the Select Board about its capacity to furnish antennae hookups for internet connection.

Burkhart announced that the Wilson-McLaughlin Scholarship Fund distributed \$73,500 to fifteen Monterey college students.

Octavio Hernandez and Lucy Leonard, representatives from the Community Health Project (CHP), visited the Select Board to discuss their new "Healthy Community Access Project," which stresses community outreach. They asked for space in Town Hall to conduct their screenings for people without health insurance.

— Laurily K. Epstein

Annual Town Meeting

The Monterey Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, by Moderator Mark Makuc. A motion was made and seconded to waive reading the warrant. A moment of silence followed in memory of Peter Phillips and David McAllester.

Articles 1–3, listing the candidates for public office, approval of town reports, and salaries for elected officials, passed without controversy. Various holds were placed on individual budget items in Article 4. A number of questions arose because the Finance Committee, responding to requests made at last year's Town Meeting, allocated expenses more specifically than in years past. Breakouts for such items as secretarial and winter maintenance expenses fell into this category of questioning. Issues about the salaries for the elected Assessors and the Assistant Assessor were answered in part by explanations of the amount of time needed to visit all 1700 parcels of land in town.

The number of hours worked and salary for the Building Commissioner continue to provoke controversy, despite the report of a four-member committee appointed by the Select Board to review the permitting and inspection process. Responses to the various holds on individual budget items clarified the issues, and the budget was approved after a lengthy discussion.

Articles 5–12, concerning various budgetary expenses for equipment, were passed unanimously. Article 6, concerning the purple loosestrife in Lake Garfield, and Article 7, the Lake Garfield drawdown permit, also passed unanimously, as did articles about direct deposit of town employee paychecks and retirement benefits.

The Planning Board's proposal to redefine certain agricultural practices as "by right" was defeated. By unanimous vote, the Town Meeting tabled a proposed change in regulations of structures for septic systems. A right-to-farm bylaw, which encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities, and protects farmland, was passed by voice vote.

A citizen petition to support our congressman, John Olver, in his effort to investigate and file articles of impeachment to remove George W. Bush from office passed by a majority. A second citizen petition, favoring a system of instant runoff voting for statewide offices, also passed by a majority.

The Treasurer was voted authority to borrow money, with the approval of the Select Board. The Board of Registrars was authorized appointment powers.

Select Board member Michael Storch commended outgoing Select Board member Michèle Miller for the excellent job she performed in her term on the board. The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

— Laurily K. Epstein

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find it, mix it, paste it: COLLAGE: 7/18-7/20
shape, shift, squish, and sculpt: 7/25-7/27
quill and ink lettering and design: 8/1-8/3
fantasy or reality? painting dreams: 8/8-8/10
secret treasure boxes: 8/15-8/17

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Town Meeting in a Nutshell

For me, town meeting day always begins with a stop at the Monterey General Store for a cup of coffee to go. That means the first question pondered by this local voter is, “What size coffee?”

Usually it depends on the town meeting’s warrant, our official agenda of monies to spend and issues to decide. If there’s going to be talk of the building inspector’s job description, or the building inspector’s salary, or the building inspector’s shoe size, I’ll opt for a massive 55-gallon drum of java—enough to stay alert and engaged during building-inspector-related discussion that has, in past years, sometimes gone on for days. (I’m happy to report that last month’s town meeting successfully earned the slogan, “Monterey Town Meeting 2006: Now with 50 Percent Less Discussion of the Building Inspector!”)

Suitably fueled by caffeine, it’s up the hill to the firehouse, parking on any available patch of dirt, grass, or pavement. Once inside, each of us receives The Official Colored Index Card of Democracy that represents our registered voterhood. Then it’s a few handshakes, smiles, and waves all around, and little head nods to friends and neighbors.

As the cavernous room fills, the buzz becomes a din of human interaction: snippets of laughter and “how’re the grandkids?” and “she’s feeling much better, thanks” and “the sap ran great this year” and “don’t even get me started on what I think about Fairview Road.”

Looking around, we see which babies have grown, in just a year, into little people. Since last year’s town meeting, which of our young’uns has learned to walk? How’re those teeth coming in? Who’s

learned a few words—and who likes to yell them at eardrum-piercing volume?

In fact, sometimes a baby’s scream or toddler’s loud giggle or a childish outburst (by a Monterey resident of any age) comes at a meaningful time during town meeting. This year, it happened when a baby made his vocal power known just as debate over the town secretary’s salary entered its 45th minute. Was he letting us know it was time to move on? These kids are deceptively smart, and, in the words of the great twentieth-century singer-philosopher Whitney Houston, they are indeed our future.

Town meeting is also a good time to note whose hair is a bit grayer or a little thinner; who’s emerged from the long winter months a little softer in the middle; and who has their first-ever pair of reading glasses perched on their nose as they peruse the warrant.

And there, under the firehouse’s enormous American flag—the one that draws attention with its bold, colorful stillness, a majestic testament to our nation’s imperfect, quarter-millennium effort to form that more perfect union—our community comes together. We bicker, we debate, we laugh, and occasionally we yell. Sometimes feelings are hurt and motives questioned, but like that old saw about making sausage, direct democracy isn’t always an appetizing process, even when the meal we enjoy is, in the end, quite tasty.

In fact, Roberts Rules of Order may be our formal, parliamentary guide to

moving through the meeting agenda, but the real glue is the bond of community that survives—sometimes by kicking and screaming for attention—in a town filled with old-timers and full-timers and weekenders and newcomers, each with their own ideas and opinions.

Town meeting is our annual democratic milestone—a marker of what’s behind and what’s to come. It’s our tiny, presumptuous effort to steer our affairs to our mutual benefit, to imagine that the incalculable rush of the universe can be slowed to a manageable crawl inside our town’s few square miles. Slowed long enough, at least, for us to nudge ourselves in a particular direction. Sometimes we succeed and other times we don’t. Yet with this New England tradition, we bind ourselves to one another in common destiny.

In my years here, our coat-and-tied moderator always gavel the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.—not a little before, not a little bit after, but so precisely at 9:30 a.m. that I wonder if he owns a NASA-style atomic watch that’s accurate to the nanosecond.

With help from the town clerk, we quickly get to work. The assembled voters are formally “warned” that a town meeting is about to be held. (A harbinger of contentious debates to come?) Then we solemnly remember those neighbors who have passed on to a place where line-item budgets aren’t required and there’s no need for sand or road salt in winter—if there’s even a “winter” or “roads” in that

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Monterey veterans (including Arnie Hayes, foreground above) and other townspeople gathered to observe Veterans Day at Veterans Memorial Park. (Photos by Jules Dahlman.)

heavenly community beyond our rolling hills and crisp, blue sky.

And then off we go, making motions and seconds, moving for this and for that, voting by voice and by The Official Colored Index Card of Democracy. Sometimes our debate gets “into the weeds”—that is, highly technical discussions of where in the budget certain monies should be, or how some figure was calculated. Other times, we more literally get “into the weeds,” as with discussion of the purple loosestrife eradication project at Brewer Pond or the annual, weed-killing draw-down of Lake Garfield.

During all of this, other Montereyans traipse through the firehouse to vote in town elections, their wishes collected in our beloved wooden ballot box, the one that rings a bell as each paper ballot is

cranked into the top slot. There are no flat-panel screens to touch, nothing to scan, no Help America Vote Act bureaucratic gobbledygook, no computers to crash, and no funny business. But, unfortunately, it’s a ballot box that’s no longer acceptable to the powers that be, and we may not see it again. (As our town clerk noted wryly this year, “This Help America Vote Act was passed in Washington, D.C. without asking me.”)

Most years, we’re back outside by early afternoon, shaking hands and slapping backs, piling into our cars and heading out for springtime activities in the beloved town we govern ourselves—often wisely, sometimes less so, but always with plenty of folks happy to let each other know how we’re doing.

— Bill Shein

Free Health Screenings, MassHealth Enrollments

Free Health Screenings and MassHealth enrollments will be offered on Tuesday, June 20, from 10 a.m. to noon at Town Hall by Healthy Communities Access Project (HCAP), a program of Community Health Programs. An outreach nurse and a case worker will assist every resident who is uninsured or underinsured to check cholesterol, blood glucose, and blood pressure levels. Health education and assistance with provider referrals will also be available, as well as assistance with enrolling electronically in MassHealth insurance or other entitlement programs.

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The Story of Democracy

Now that the town elections are over, I would like to share a few reflections on voting, an ancient practice. Most of you reading this article probably know that the system of voting used in Monterey, the whole United States, and many other countries around the world is called democracy, or “rule of the people” in Greek. The practice of democracy goes all the way back to antiquity, when the Athenians kicked out the tyrant Hippias in 510 B.C., and put in place a democracy. The democracies of Athens and the United States have a lot in common, but they also have many differences.

In a democracy, representatives often are elected to represent voters. This happens especially in large democracies, such as the United States. In Monterey, the Select Board makes decisions on many issues as opposed to the town voting on every issue as a whole. In Athens, every citizen got to vote, but representatives were chosen to propose laws for the citizen assembly. Another type of democracy is direct democracy. For example, Monterey has a town meeting where the town meets as a whole to discuss issues. Like Monterey, in Athens both types of democracy were mixed.

In a democracy, only citizens can vote. Children cannot vote, and visitors to the United States cannot vote because

they are not citizens. However, both can become full-fledged citizens. The children will grow up, and the visitor can stay and apply for citizenship. Athenian rules were much stricter. Only men whose fathers had been citizens could become citizens. Later the rules were made even stricter. At the height of Athenian citizenship, the citizen assembly made up fifteen percent of the population!

In a democracy, trials are held to determine whether a person accused of a crime is innocent or guilty. A trial in Athens would be greatly different from one here in the United States. In the United States, all citizens must serve jury duty every few years. After weeks or months of testimony the jury makes its decision. An old Athenian trial was quicker. Every citizen was the jury all the time. At the end of a trial the jury cast tokens into two jars labeled “guilty” and “not guilty” to determine the verdict.

The first democracy and the democracy we live in have a lot in common. They have their differences, as do all countries. It is refreshing to know that all democracies have the same principles of rule by the people that were founded over 2500 years ago by people from a small city-state with a desire for fairness. Democracy has come a long way since then. Please think about this and go to the polls in November.

— Jonah Carlson
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Planning Board News

The Monterey Planning Board welcomed newly elected member Laurily Epstein to our ranks as a result of her successful run for the open seat. Congratulations were also due to Wayne Burkhart, who was victorious in his run for the Select Board—a somewhat bittersweet result for the Planning Board, since as of May 25 Burkhart resigned from the Planning Board. He has always believed that as many people as possible should be involved in town government, and he is philosophically opposed to filling two important seats on separate boards. He has also been Monterey’s delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission for over ten years. A longtime member of the Planning Board, Wayne was instrumental in making major changes and clarifications in the Zoning Bylaws. Specifically, he improved the section (Section IV.) pertaining to non-conforming lots, structures, and uses, which, prior to his work was confusing for both the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Burkhart has been a stalwart Planning Board member; he has been our “corporate memory” if you will, and he will be sorely missed.

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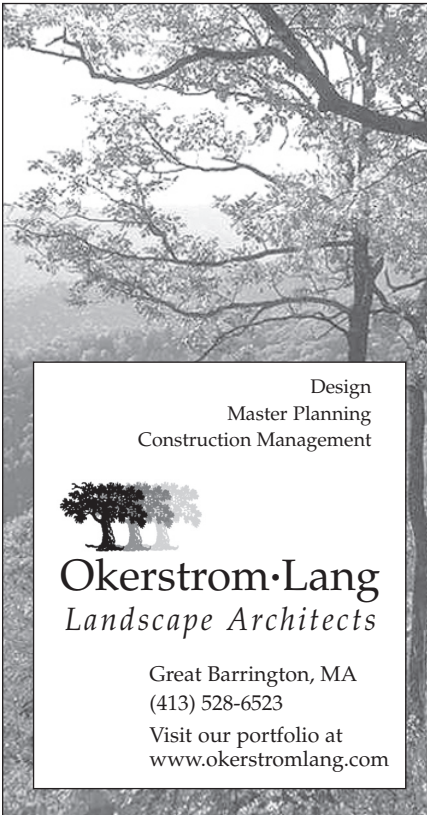
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His civic efforts have been a tremendous contribution to the Town of Monterey, and we all wish him success in his duties as a Select Board member.

Due to Burkhart's resignation from the Planning Board there is an open seat that needs to be filled. This is an appointed position until next May when the next round of elections occurs. Any Monterey residents interested in serving on the Planning Board are encouraged to apply for the seat. The board meets the on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. We are requesting that a letter of interest be submitted to the board, and we will schedule interviews for our June 22nd meeting.

Bob Lazzarini and Stan Ross of the Board of Assessors met with the Planning Board at the May 25th meeting to discuss a letter from the Building Inspector that appears on the town web site. In this letter, dated January 23, 2006, the Building Inspector discusses the definition of a dwelling and quotes the State Building Code definition: "A single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, cooking and sanitation." The Building Inspector states that "the cooking component is the easiest to **not** include in the dwelling unit." He also states that "In several structures I have inspected, kitchen cabinets and countertops were installed when no cooking appliance was present," and that "It would be easy to supply a microwave or hot plate to this structure which would then constitute a dwelling unit." The Building Inspector goes on to say that if upon his inspection a kitchen sink or a dishwasher is present, as well as the living, sleeping, and sanitation components, then that constitutes a dwelling unit.

Ross and Lazzarini visited the Planning Board to discuss the Building Inspector's interpretation and ruling on dwelling units and how it pertains to assessing properties. The Planning Board stated that we are on record as having disagreed with the Building Inspector's interpretation and that we have submitted a letter to Town Counsel, the Select Board, and the Zoning Board of Appeals stating our opposition in this regard. Planning Board members explained to the Assessors that, in our view, the interpretation does not take into account lifestyle details which our citizens have a right to employ and enjoy. These can include a wet bar, an art studio, a photography lab, and many other possible uses of countertops and sinks which do not make the structure a dwelling unit. Are there people who have outbuildings in Monterey that could be dwelling units? You betcha. And are they cheating? Another resounding yes. However, a unilateral ruling on sinks, countertops, or dishwashers is taking away rights from those who may well not be breaking any rules, and as such has been opposed by the Planning Board.

In the wake of the recent Town Meeting and failure of the Planning Board's attempt to change the definition of Agricultural Use (to include commercial greenhouses as a use-by-right), the Planning Board discussed a proposal to create a bylaw that would control light pollution. Part of the opposition to making commercial greenhouses a use-by-right was that they might be lit at night. The board discussed other situations around town where lights at night are an issue, particularly on Lake Garfield, where there have been reports that some recent construction has included spotlights that

Historical Society Event

The Monterey Historical Society is pleased to announce the first of the 2006 season presentations, scheduled to take place at 7:00 PM on June 16th in the Knox Museum at the Monterey Library.

Conrad Ohman, Management Forester for the Southern Berkshire Region of the state forests will present a history of the state forest lands. He will also discuss both the natural and cultural history of the land prior to the establishment of the state forests. He will illustrate his talk either with a Power Point presentation or with slides.

The public is invited to view the collections of the Historical Society, beginning at 6:30 Friday evening, June 16th, prior to Ohman's talk. Refreshments will be served, and all are welcome to attend.

shine on the neighboring houses and motion sensor lights that are often activated by wildlife at night and constitute a nuisance. Planning Board members were divided on this issue, with half the members thinking such a bylaw could be a good idea and the other half stating that these are onerous regulations that infringe on personal property rights. Stay tuned.

— Maggie Leonard



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Community Center News Return Those Surveys!

Due to a mailing glitch, the survey we sent you took two weeks to be delivered and arrived after the specified return-by date. Just ignore that date and fill out your survey as soon as possible. There are four ways to return them: (1) fill out the online version at www.ccmonterey.org; (2) mail to FWMH, PO Box 302, Monterey, MA 01245; (3) drop in the box in the lobby of the Monterey Town Hall; or (4) drop in the box at the Monterey General Store.

On May 13th, at a public meeting at the Town Offices, the architect's team from Clark and Green presented their preliminary assessment of the Community Center site as well as some possible scenarios for potential site plans. Architect Steve McAlister, civil engineer Rob Hoogs, and landscaper Mollie Babize from Walt Cudnohufsky's office reported on their findings and left us with a lot to ponder.

The ultimate creative challenge for this project lies in how to meet the stipulations of Edith Wilson's will and economically rework her house in a way that it can be used for municipal purposes so that the Community Center can blossom from that core. We are a town full of creative minds with a determination to come together as a community and design a center that will enrich us all for years to come. We encourage the folks who were at that meeting to communicate their insights to us.

If you notice trucks and vans from a company called EcoGenesis at the house in the next weeks, don't panic. FWMH has contracted with an environmental testing firm to determine the amount and location of hazardous materials in the Wilson McLaughlin House, a necessary step prior to construction. The tests will delineate how we need to deal with asbestos, possible lead paint, and any petroleum spills in the basement.

Tag Sale

As you are finishing up your spring-cleaning, keep in mind that there will be a big tag sale at the end of the summer to benefit the Community Center. Laury Epstein is heading up this event, which promises to be one of the most entertaining tag sales you have ever been to. Think of us when you are trying to decide what to do with those great items that are just too good to send to the dump (and send those things that should go to the dump, to the dump). We are going to be somewhat selective so that we don't have to rent a dumpster to haul away what doesn't sell. No clothes, and please donate books to the Monterey Library, not to the tag sale. There will be collection days on weekends throughout the summer. Remember your donations are tax-deductible. Volunteers are needed to help with many aspects; think of all the previewing you'd get to do! Call Laury at 528-0577 if you want to join in the fun.

— Susan Sellew

Infinites Appear at New Marlborough School

On Thursday, May 11, the students at the New Marlborough Central School participated in a unique educational performing arts event with Infinites, appearing in a program entitled "Peter and the Wolf with the Woodwind Family." This program was presented under the auspices of Young Audiences of Massachusetts, with funding from the New Marlborough-Monterey P.T.A. and the New Marlborough Cultural Council.

Music came alive for the students with Infinites! In this delightful program they learned the building blocks of music, the elements of melody, harmony, bass, and countermelody as they became walking and talking characters. Exuberance, humor and Prokofiev's great music combined to engage the children in the joy of musical expression.

Lake Garfield Torah Group

The Lake Garfield Torah Group will be meeting on Saturday mornings between June 10 and September 9, 2006. Selections from the Book of Psalms, the Book of Proverbs, Song of Songs of Solomon, and the Book of Isaiah are among the writings that will be discussed, along with other selections to be made by the group.

For additional information, please call 413-528-3193 or 413-567-8171.

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I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

LakeFest Lives!

Note the date: Saturday, August 19. And while you have your calendar out, jot down Saturday, June 17, at the firehouse at 9:30 a.m. That's the next open meeting of the Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG), which will decide if it has a future. More about that later. Now, back to LakeFest ...

It was, indeed, a narrow escape from the jaws of defeat. With the town anteing up \$2,500, FLG putting up \$2,500 and the stepping-up of but a few new volunteers, LakeFest 2006 went from nearly extinguished to newly distinguished. (Not exactly sure what that last phrase says, but, it does have a neat ring to it.)

The only casualty of this year's smaller budget will be the \$5,000 fireworks (unless some good Samaritan would like to cough up the dough to light up the skies).

LakeFest activities will include free motor boat rides around our glorious lake, a beach brimming with kids' activities, a luscious, savory potluck dinner, and, yes, David Grover and the Big Bear Band will be back to blow us away as they did in 2005. (My granddaughter Jordan, aged 2, proclaims, "I wub Dabid Grober!")

And now a word from our sponsor: The FLG, in recent years with the financial help of the town, has worked tirelessly to fund and stage LakeFest—and to preserve and protect the health of Lake Garfield.

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Potluck Finale

The community potluck dinner on May 10th marked the conclusion of the dinners for the season. Many thanks to Don Victor for his photo presentation of community potlucks from the past. An enthusiastic town crowd joined with some former Monterey residents to reminisce, celebrate the great potluck tradition, and glimpse what they and their friends looked like in the late '80s. Don has indicated he has many more photos he has taken of the town through the years, and we look forward to seeing them at another gathering.

The president and vice president of FLG are stepping down after four years of service—and so far, no one is stepping up to fill these positions. That leaves the future of FLG in doubt. If you care about LakeFest and, more importantly, if you care about Lake Garfield, you need to show up at the next open meeting.

The guest speaker will be Lauren Gaherty, environmental planner, who will talk about "non-point pollution," an issue of the utmost importance for the well-being of our lake ... and an issue most of us know almost nothing about.

See you at the firehouse Saturday, June 17, at 9:30 a.m.

— Hy Rosen



Community potluck dinner, July 27, 1983. Can you identify anyone? (Photo by Don Victor.)

With the May dinner, Steve and Sally Pullen and Dianna Downing have stepped down as organizers of the potlucks, but will be happy to advise anyone who wants to step in as an organizer for next season. The once-a-month potlucks run from November through May. Organizing requires meeting once with the committee in October, calling to line up speakers and performers, and setting up the tables, coffee pot, etc., on the day of the event. There have always been plenty of willing helpers to stay and clean up. "Keep it simple" has been the motto for the organizers, and it has worked extremely well. The Monterey Church has always been a pleasure to work with and generous with its space.

In what other town could there be a community potluck such as ours? If you would like to be a part of keeping this tradition going, call and talk it over. You can reach Steve and Sally at 528-9243 and Dianna at 528-3381.



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Monterey Library Events Schedule, Acquisitions

The Monterey Library has a series of Saturday morning events for children and their families during July.

On July 1 at 11 a.m. we will welcome back the always popular storyteller, folk-singer, and musician John Porcino, who will celebrate the joys of reading, music, and humor. John has become a local favorite, so please join him on a lively interactive journey. This free event is sponsored by the Monterey Library, with funding from the Monterey Cultural Council.

Check the July *Monterey News* for the other July events.

Recent acquisitions:

Adult Fiction

Dirty Blonde, Lisa Scottoline

Fallen, T. Jefferson Parker

10th Circle, Jodi Picoult

Sea Change, Robert Parker

Afterlands, Steve Heighton

False Impression, Jeffrey Archer

Minotaur, Barbara Vine



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Monterey Knitting Circle

The Monterey Knitting Circle and friends have now made 27 squares for our quilt. We have been meeting at least one evening a month in the Monterey General Store (Thanks Kenn) after hours, to knit and chat. We've been working on our squares as well as other projects. Our 27 squares now make up an area about 3½ by 4 feet. Our plan is to crochet them together into a quilt, which can then be raffled off this summer with proceeds going to the Monterey Community Center. A knitting group is just the sort of activity that we hope will eventually meet in the community center. We would like to have squares from as many people as possible, so if you have the time, knit a square. Once



finished you can leave it in the basket at the back of the General Store. Even better, come and join us on knitting night. New and experienced knitters are all encouraged to come. We're looking for 8-inch squares, but as you can see from the photograph there's room for variation—any color, pattern, or yarn, whatever you can come up with. Our next knitting night is Tuesday, June 20, 6 p.m. at the Monterey General Store.

Halfway House, Katharine Noel (a former staff member at Gould Farm)

Adult Nonfiction

Seducing the Demon, Erica Jong

A Year in the World, Frances Mayes

Children's

I Made It Myself! Salt Dough Fun,
Brigitte Casagrande

The Wright 3, Blue Balliett

Amazing Snakes, Sarah Thomson

Heroes of Baseball, Robert Lipsyte

Roxie and the Hooligans, Phyllis Reynolds
Naylor

How to Be a Revolutionary War Soldier,
Thomas Ratliff

*The First Marathon: The Legend of
Pheidippides*, Susan Reynolds

Dual Homeowners Corner

We are on our way to our special cozy spot in the Berkshires on the shore of Lake Buel. The beautiful environment is enriched by our renewing our connections with old friends and taking part in the community events. This has been our family tradition for five generations.

Last year the Lake Buel Restoration/Preservation District meeting was held on May 28. We have not yet received a notice for this year's meeting, but assume it will be held the weekend close to Memorial Day. Of course we will attend the meeting and look forward to seeing everyone. This is a special way to start the summer season.

— Barbara Haver



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Slow Fountain

*By intermittent gains the patient roots'
Tender tips (but iron in their might),
Sort their searching way, persistent, mute,
To bring the earth's deep secrets to the light.*

*The metallurgic chemistries of trees,
By stages imperceptible and sure,
Blend elements diverse in thaw and freeze,
And fix them in some newer ligature.*

*Now this exuberant mix begins to rise
To take its part in photosynthesis,
and every integrant will change its guise
And transubstantiate to edifice.*

*The metals lend their strength to cellulose
As stem, and leafing out, as fruit and flower,
But slow entropic forces will dispose
That what goes up must come down in a shower.*

*So leaf and insect, nest and twig and branch,
End their seasons, join the effluent fall,
An endlessly increasing avalanche,
For more the spate the more the tree is tall.*

*Then finally, the trunk itself must yield
Back to the ground the earth's constituent parts,
And in that ever richer nutrient field
Many another living fountain starts.*

— David McAllester

Sun in the Woods

*We think of sunrises (sunsets, too),
As theatrical light productions requiring
For the full effect, ocean reaches,
Mountain ranges, the big sky, illumined,
But in the woods there's sunrise, too.*

*The light steals in quietly as dawn begins:
Familiar trees take on their civil shapes;
The forest shifts from gray to green, a bird sings,
Flowers appear, white baneberry, helleborine;
Ferns are nodding that were all night unseen.*

*And then a ruby blazes in the low branches,
Disappears, returns, reduplicates, a morula,
Into rutillescent fragments held together
In a web of woody, leafy, lace.*

*A shaft of rainbow flicks into being
In the morning mist, illuminates a mossy rock,
A ranges of parallel beams appears by the first
While treetops to the west turn rosy, turn
Green-gold, as the slow clock of the sun
Thrusts its hands deep into the receiving woods.*

— David McAllester

The Tree

*A tree, that treasure,
with a bee, big measure.*

*A bird climbing up,
a bird singing, riming.*

*A tree, that treasure,
with a bee, big measure.*

*A tree, old and
grey, is happy
from the
delay.*

—Olivia Koslow
(age almost 7)

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Treen Exhibit Opens July 1 at Bidwell House

The Bidwell House Museum will open an exhibit on "Treen" on Saturday, July 1, and will offer the display through the summer. In the twenty-first century, it is fair to ask, What is treen? As the word suggests, treen describes common utilitarian objects made of wood. The earliest recorded use of the term is attributed to Archbishop Boniface in his description of wooden chalices in the thirteenth century. In England, the term continued to be used through the nineteenth century, so our colonial ancestors knew the word and used it while designing and carving treen spoons and dishes. The Bidwell House collection of treen has never been on display. Certainly, when Reverend Bidwell entertained he was able to use pewter plates and serving vessels, but the keeping room would not have been well equipped without an extensive array of kitchen treen.

Once you are introduced to treen, you will appreciate everyday life in Massachusetts Bay Colony on a new plane. The study of treen leads to an awareness of the types of trees available for woodcarving, carpenter's tools and specialized carving,

the use of decoration in the construction of useful objects, and the tradesman's skills in the overall construction of homes and furniture in the colonies. New England treen is the realm of men's work and is their contribution to the efficiency of the keeping room. When a man walked in the woods, he was on the lookout for a burl in a tree that could become a bowl. Much of it was whittled by the fireplace in the winter or outside the barn door in between chores in other seasons.

There's something sacred about old woodenware. There's a certain smoothness over uneven cutting marks and worn edges. There are oily stains left on butter utensils, the dye tub is stained darkly, the flour scoop may be whitened, and a fragrance may linger on a spice box or a cider press. Wooden plates will have cut marks on the dinner side but turn them over and you'll find cut marks on the reverse—the plates were turned over for a serving of pie.

Colonial treen is not abundant because when washing it, the object was scoured clean; often it cracked and was no longer useful. When that happened, it was added to the firewood in the fireplace. The most beautiful survival of a burl bowl in our area is an oversized bowl on display at the Mission House in Stockbridge.

Wooden boxes, washboards, scrubbing sticks, winnowing sieves, tankards, chopping trays, and porringers are all ex-

amples of treen. A favorite of the Bidwell House director and the Bidwell House caretaker are mashers. One masher owned by caretaker Esther Heffernan has the remnants of reddish paint on the handle; another owned by the director, Martha Dailey, is so finely turned that it is a work of art. Both will be on display in the exhibit. Since the colonial housewife had to grind all her salt, spices, herbs, and grain, another favorite is the mortar and pestle.

Two-hundred-year-old rolling pins are fascinating treen. The earliest have tapered ends; then one handle was added and later two handles. They come in many sizes and styles and in New England, the most common wood for a rolling pin was from the maple tree. If a pin had corrugated grooves, it was used for rolling cookies. If a pin had a long handle and a smooth-bottomed end, it was used as a meat pounder.

The Bidwell House was designed by Reverend Bidwell to hold two brick ovens—one in the keeping room, which was common, and one in the dining room, quite rare. Both have their original wood-paneled doors. The matron of the home made bread and pies at least once a week. To make bread, a rough treen object was a trough made from a hollowed out log; later, oblong boards were mitered on the ends or the dough was kneaded in round wooden bowls. The Bidwell House has a long wooden peel or flat shovel to place

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the loaves of bread in the oven and take them out after baking. It is almost four feet long because the ovens were built deep into the chimney. Children recognize the peel because it is so similar to those used in pizza shops today. It was good luck to give a peel to a bride in the colonial era.

The first pies made by our ancestors in the Berkshires were meat pies. Juices and syrups, dried fruit and nuts, and spices ground in the mortar with a pestle were added to the chopped-up meat—these were the early mince pies. In addition to the pie peel, another treen object was the pie crimper, a whittled wheel placed on a short handle to “glue” the two piecrusts together. They were most often made of wood, but some of the early pie crimpers are whittled from bone—perhaps the result of carving on a returning whaling expedition out of Boston Harbor in the early nineteenth century.

Deep in the basement of the Bidwell House is what looks like a hollowed-out tree trunk. We do not know when or how it came to its present location, but it looks like treen. We know that corn was grown in Massachusetts in limited supply as a necessary part of the diet. The best ears were set aside for seed; the husks were turned back and then braided, called tracing, and hung together near the fireplace to dry and in the attic to store. Corn used for eating had to be shelled. The most expedient method was to place the ears in a hollowed-out tree trunk and then to use a long wooden pole or pestle made of heavy ash or a hickory sapling to pound the ears and thereby shell the corn. Some early treen ware from a tree trunk had holes bored in the bottom so

Bidwell House Announces Summer Interns

The Bidwell House Museum staff has announced the recipients of the summer 2006 internships for high school students. Five students were selected to work at the Bidwell House for a two-week session in June, July or August. Upon completion of their internship, students will receive a stipend of \$200 through an education grant sponsored by the Berkshire Taconic Foundation.

The interns are: Jennifer Blagg of Lenox, a student at Lenox Memorial High School; Sarah Robinson of North Yarmouth, Maine, a student at Greely High School, Cumberland, Maine; Cecily King of Sheffield, a student at Monument Mountain in Great Barrington; Morwenna Boyd of Monterey, home-schooled; and, Morgan Andrus of Otis, home-schooled.

that the kernels would fall through. Then the matron took the kernels and pounded them in small kitchen mortars; if she was lucky, she could take the kernels to the gristmill. Corncobs were saved of course and burned with hickory bark when meat was smoked.

The Bidwell staff hopes to take the hollowed-out log from its cellar residence and give it a new home in the carriage barn for all to see. Visitors are encouraged to add to our storehouse of knowledge on the early way of life of our ancestors in Tyngham and Monterey.

— Martha L. Dailey, Exec. Director
The Bidwell House Museum

House Blessing June 4 at Bidwell House

Geography and demographics had a role in the creation of the new Town of Monterey which split off from Tyngham in 1847, but these elements will be defied on Sunday, June 4, when people from the two communities will gather at the Bidwell House Museum for a House Blessing at noon.

The Board of Directors have invited residents to participate in a gathering that will be led by Reverend Elizabeth Goodman of the Monterey United Church of Christ and the new minister of Tyngham Union Church, Rev. Rick Chrisman. Honoring the generations that lived on the land here, from Algonquin Indians to the Bidwells and the families that followed until the house was established as a museum in 1990, the House Blessing will be a twenty-minute ritual of remembrance with song and psalms.

In the tradition of the early congregations that gathered at the Meeting House and in the parsonage, the house will be blessed in memory of the lifeways of early colonial ancestors who met the challenges of frontier settlement in unceasing prayer. In addition, an invocation for continued blessings upon the house and land and its current and future inhabitants will be made.

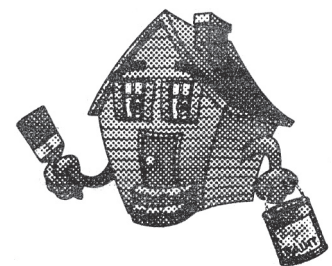
Refreshments will be served.



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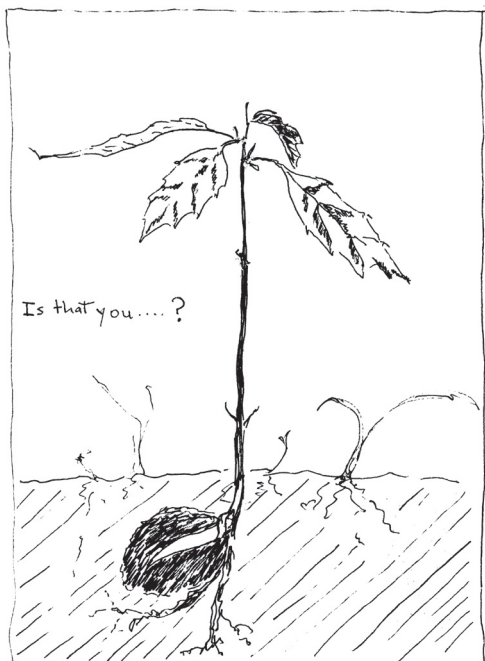
A noted biologist of the last century, Frank Fraser Darling, studied the ways of the Scottish red deer. He spent his winters in deep dark libraries, reading all he could on anything related to the deer, but when summer came he was out in the glens gazing at distant hillsides, looking for a little movement. He also took off his shoes. Fraser Darling writes of his footgear: "Heavy shoes and thick woolen stockings (hand-knitted) are necessary for long journeys, and I had the insteps of my shoes fitted with Tricouni nails. These allow one to cross the burns more easily, for a leap from rock to rock can be made with more assurance. The little hard teeth of steel bite on to the rock most efficiently." (*A Herd of Red Deer*, London: 1937.)

He took off his Tricouni nails and thick socks the summer of 1935 and, "after a fortnight of discomfort I had my reward. The whole threshold of awareness was raised, I was never fatigued, and stalking became very much easier. This ease in approaching animals was something more than what was gained by ... heavy and possibly noisy shoes. The whole organism worked in better co-ordination."

I went through the woods barefoot yesterday, thinking of Fraser Darling, whose highland crags gave him two weeks of discomfort. I went over the soft damp duff of Monterey's beech-hemlock woods and didn't have to step lightly until

I reached my own gravelly driveway. I wasn't stalking deer particularly, just getting the full benefit of walking on the earth, putting my own feet right on the dirt, skin to skin with the planet.

What is this dirt we walk on, ignore, pave over, sweep from our houses? Look up "soil" in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*



and here's what you get: "earthen material that covers land surfaces and is formed by the action of natural, physical, chemical, and biotic forces on the unconsolidated residue (regolith) of rocks and minerals on the Earth's surface. Among its many important functions, soil serves as a substratum of plant and, thus, further up the food chain, of animal life."

There is something called a soil profile comprising master horizons A, B, C, and R, the unconsolidated rock. We mostly have

our dealings with A, the topmost horizons. These contain the most organic matter and are weathered and leached (compared with the horizons below them). We like to say the most important parts of this soil are two kinds of clays, and the organic matter or humus—and I am sure we mean "the most important parts to us."

Dirt is important to us, there's no use denying it. We know that even though it comes wrapped in plastic from the shelves of the metal and concrete market, brought there by petroleum and money, in fact all our food really comes from dirt. Don't argue with me about hydroponics and swordfish because I won't go there. When I say food, I mean that which grows upward toward the sun and is anchored in the A master horizons. We may cut it, thresh it, grind it, and bake it but we should remember where it comes from. As for the swordfish, it occupies the top of a food chain, too, and if the nutrients did not well up by the continental shelf to feed the plankton that feed the little fish that feed the big fish, you would not see this big fish on your plate.

When we think of life cycles, we rely upon dirt to make the connection and shoot us up again. We are agricultural people and we get our stories from the farm, whether or not we live and eat there ourselves. So we enjoy spring festivals and symbols of resurrection and we picture our personal molecules reorganized thanks to dirt.

As a little kid I went through one of those bare-bones times when I faced my death (I remember this) as something final and probably chilly. I sat on the floor close to the radiator for awhile until my father

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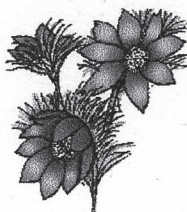
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Summer at Bidwell House

The Bidwell House Museum on Art School Road opened for the 2006 season on Saturday, May 27. Tours of the authentically restored 1750 Georgian colonial are available on the hour from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A new summer program, The Bidwell Authors Series, will feature four

asked me what it was all about. I told him about the finality and chilliness of death and this is what he said.

"When I die I will go into the ground. Pretty soon an oak tree will grow, nourished by me, and it will produce acorns. A squirrel will come and eat the acorns and before you know it, I will be racing through the trees with my bushy tail and lovely fur. Death will change us, but it won't be final, nor chilly."

I have taken comfort from this thought ever since, and I recognize dirt as the great transformer. In my garden I see fava beans where they never were before. Thank you, dirt! In a planter box at the Friends Meetinghouse there is a little oak tree coming up. Is that you, Dad, already? I recommend the early morning barefoot walk for anyone, deerstalker or philosopher. As Fraser Darling said, "The whole organism (works) in better co-ordination."

— Bonner J. McAllester

authors who will give a talk and sign books. The public is invited to all events.

The first presentation will be on Sunday, June 18, at 4 p.m. by Richard Greene, senior board member of the Bidwell House Museum and author of *Midnight Rounds*. Drawing on his personal experiences as a physician in the Berkshires, Greene's protagonist, Dr. Charlie David, works in an emergency room in rural western Massachusetts. This is Greene's first novel and it has met with wide acclaim and multiple printings. The director of the museum, Martha Dailey, and trustees of the museum will host a wine and cheese reception for Dr. Greene.

On Sunday, June 24, at 1:30 p.m., the museum will feature Tim Kenslea, author of *Sedgwicks In Love*. In this well-documented story of the Sedgwick family of the Berkshires, the author recounts the lives and loves of the Sedgwicks and tells the story of changes in the rules of love, courtship, and marriage in the early republic. The Bidwell family and the Sedgwicks were contemporaries in eighteenth-century southern Berkshire.

The third presentation in the Bidwell Authors Series will be on Saturday, July 22, at 1:30 p.m., when Keith Stavely and Kathleen Fitzgerald will discuss their award-winning story of early New England cooking from baked beans to apple cider and pumpkin pies to clam chowder. Their book, *America's Founding Food*, is a sharp assessment and a savory recollection of recipes in the context of New England's

history. The authors will launch a Foodways Weekend at the Bidwell House and there will be a sharing of recipes. Admission of \$10.00 will include an optional tour of the museum and wine and cheese reception.

The following day, Sunday, July 23rd, the most popular event of the season at the Bidwell House will feature a lecture, tour, tasting, and demonstration of colonial homemaking and gardening. Under the direction of Don Welsch, new foods have been added to the Foodways program answering the question, What was cooking at the Bidwell House? Attendance is limited; there will be a per-person charge of \$30. Early registration is recommended. The workshop will include a talk in the Colonial Garden by Ruth Green. Call ahead at 413-528-6888.

The final book talk and signing will be on Saturday, September 2, at 10 a.m., when the Bidwell House will host Robert M. Thorson, scientist, writer, and professor of geology at the University of Connecticut. Author of *Stone By Stone* and founder of the Stone Wall Initiative, Thorson will present the magnificent story of New England's stone walls and then lead a walk to some of the extensive stone walls on the Bidwell property. Refreshments will be served and a \$10.00 admission will be charged.

Guests are always invited to walk the historic woodland trails on the 200-acre property of the Bidwell House; trail maps are available during museum hours. Groups requesting a guided tour are urged to call ahead and make reservations.

Phil Cooley D/B/A

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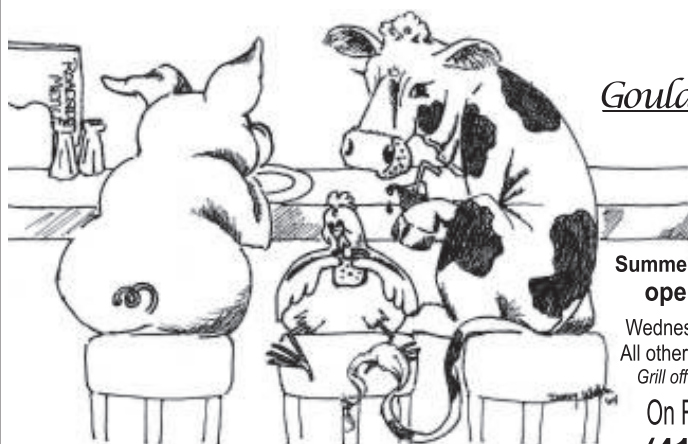
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South Berkshire Friends and David P. McAllester

On the grounds of the South Berkshire Friends Meeting, on Route 23 in Great Barrington sit three structures of very diversified construction, each of which in its own way helps to define the illuminating life of David McAllester. One is the Meeting House itself, where he was a founder and clerk; beyond it is the second, where tall poles of a tipi frame reach into the sky, and lastly is a beaver lodge at the edge of a pond. Each of the triune stands as a hallmark of his legacy and a symbol of his achievements, shedding light and learning for those who would follow in his footsteps.

As a boy, David was influenced by books written and illustrated by Ernest Thompson Seton. His favorite was *Two Little Savages*, the adventures of boys who built a tipi to live as Indians, and what they learned. I was similarly taken by Seton's ability to anthropomorphize wildlife behavior. So if David and I had a common mentor, with this contribution to the *Monterey News*, where David was a former editor and wildlife column writer, I walk from here on in his (literary) shadow as well as Seton's.

David spent his last quality hours walking on one of his trails, near where he had taken me. Not far away, by his Lake Garfield shining waters, stands another tipi, as well as yet another, a Plains type next to his house. And last fall he and Gould Farm volunteers built an authentic wigwam from scratch next to the colonial vegetable garden behind the Bidwell



House. This will be officially unveiled in his honor at a time to be announced, when the cover that protected it during the past winter will be removed.

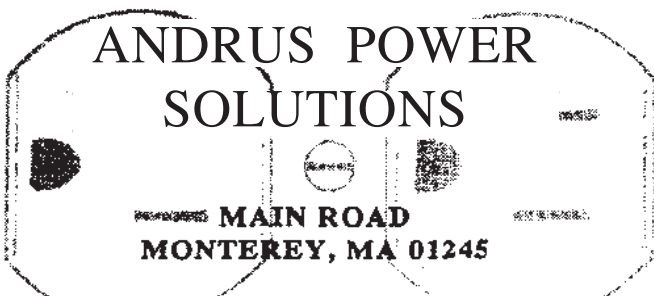
As a conscientious objector in keeping with his Quaker beliefs, David could not enlist in World War II, and was assigned to live on an Indian reservation with the Navajos. While I always respected his reputation as a professor of Native American studies and President of the Society Of Ethnomusicology, I was even more impressed with discussions we had about the profound wisdom of ancient Indian beliefs about life, its creation, and the sacredness of all living things, including animals and the earth itself. Bob Rausch

of Gould Farm perhaps best described David when I told him of his death: "He walked softly upon the land."

A month before he died, David invited me to attend his Meeting House one Sunday, and I gladly accepted, because my mother's family were Quakers, going back to the founding of the old Meeting House on Arch Street in Philadelphia. They were to become a separate sect, as free or fighting Quakers in support of the Revolutionary War. This mindset never came between David and me, and I believe the P. of his middle initial might just as well stand for Peace, much to his credit and my admiration. At the service that Sunday, I learned that there is great inspiration and inner healing in silence!

When David left this earth and the quiet wild places he loved so much, he had treated his fellow humans with compassion and decency, as one of the most intelligent and interesting individuals anyone could know. The Native Americans believed that the spirit of whatever happened in a place would always live there. And for those who knew David, it is the same. It might be said that when he left this earth and came into the company of those who had gone on before, all those sitting down, including the saints, would stand up upon finding themselves in his presence.

— George Emmons

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A Year Has Passed . . .

And what an incredible year it has been. It's been a year of so many firsts. I've lived away from home, I've taken college courses, I've met and talked with famous people who are dedicated and passionate about their work, I've done mentoring, I've learned how to Irish step-dance, and the list goes on. Discovering passions in college has been exciting, empowering, and inspiring: three words that equal life altering. I've had a professor who believes in me for who I am and at the same time encourages me to ask questions and aspire to reach beyond what I feel confident doing. Perhaps this sounds sappy, but it's not meant to. It's difficult to explain how much has happened and how different I feel now. It seems impossible that at this time last year I hadn't quite graduated from high school. It's been a little over a week since I arrived home and I'm now well rested. I'm proud of what I've accomplished, and I am looking forward to new experiences this summer in New York City at my internship in the National Center for Economic Law and Justice.

I don't have everything planned out for my whole life, because planning for the unexpected is a waste of time, but I do have goals and dreams. Next fall I'm taking two introductory political science classes, as well as a world literature class and introduction to macroeconomics. I'm excited about our second annual MIDD8 event for next spring; the one this year was a huge success and we're excited about where next year will take us. I'm also looking forward to future involvement with the Roosevelt Institution and hope to attend a conference this summer on Campus Progress if it fits in with my

schedule. I look forward to mentoring again, practicing my Irish step-dancing, and getting involved with anything else that sparks my interest.

MIDD8 has been perhaps the student activity that has inspired me the most. A group of students, along with the help of faculty and staff, organized a global awareness campaign for the month of April, devoted to the UN Millennium Goals (<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>). During these thirty days, events at Middlebury promoted these goals throughout the college and local communities with speakers, panels, festivals, a day of community involvement, and collaboration with other student organizations. One of Middlebury's missions is to reach beyond its borders to make a difference fueled by a passionate and dedicated student body. Living among a group of individuals with incredible dreams and partnering with students who intend to spend their lives working for causes bigger than their own is perhaps the most exciting environment I have ever been privileged to be a part of. Perhaps there are some who are skeptical of the power of students, but there are just as many who see it as a tremendous force. I say, if not us, then who? If not now, then when?

Student awareness, voter registration, education not just to pass standardized tests, but to raise the level of questioning and the level of participation is the responsibility of every person who looks toward the future. I want to dream the impossible; I want to believe in betterment of human lives everywhere. Call me idealistic, I'll take that as a compliment because I believe that this trait combined with passion and teamwork can change our circumstances and raise awareness.

MIDD8 didn't ask for donations; it asked for something bigger, it asked for students to listen, ask questions, and donate their time and their voice. The Millennium Goals bring important topics to the table, and I want the United States of America to lead the discussions about these issues. I want to believe that the people of our country see beyond our borders; I want to participate beyond partisan politics. The older I get the more I learn, but as I learn I want to feel empowered; I don't want to feel hopeless.

I'm not trying to campaign, I'm not trying to preach. I'm telling my story, I'm concluding this first chapter. My freshman year has been an incredible journey and one that will continue. I look back on this year and the door has been opened. For the first time in my life I feel like taking the plunge into the unknown. Embracing the future should be easy, but it isn't; it's often scary. Changes won't come without risks. That's one of the greatest lessons I've learned so far, and I'm beginning to take the risks. I don't always like using quotes to sum up experiences, but I feel that this one I read on the front of a postcard my mother gave me is fitting: "Those who have been required to memorize the world as it is will never create the world as it might be."

— Tarsi Dunlop

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Thanks to Helping Hands

To the Editor:

My family and I deeply appreciate the timely and expert assistance given to my father, David P. McAllester, when he had his stroke on April 27th. He was in a rough place in the woods, and our Monterey First Responders got to him within minutes of receiving their call. Thanks go especially to Linda Thorpe, EMT, who found Dad in the first place, in spite of the fact that he was not on any trail and was in a place entirely unknown to Linda. It is a tribute to her powerful intuition and her skill in the woods. To the others who ran through the rocks and trees to him that morning, I thank you for your heroic efforts and I know he was in the best of hands. I feel proud and comforted knowing that we have in our community so many highly trained men and women who will drop everything in an instant to rush to help a person in need. Thank you to Sean Tryon, Carli Detterman, Mark Makuc, Del Martin, Maynard Forbes, Matt McMahon, and, of course, Linda Thorpe. Thank you, too, Linda, for returning to the woods with us later to show us just how you all managed on that day.

— Bonner McAllester

Thanks for the Parade

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Town of Monterey, I want to express my sincere thanks to all those who participated in the Monterey Memorial Day Parade. Thank you to Brian Puntin for assembling a beautiful Color Guard of four horses, ridden by Brian, Kathryn Roberts, Monica Webb, and Karl Lipsky. Thanks to our Select Board: Michael Storch, Jon Sylbert and Wayne Burkhart. Our deepest appreciation to the wonderful and hard-working Mount Everett Marching Band, under the direction of Eric Blackburn, for making Monterey a stop in their busy day. Thank you to our kindergarteners, and to chaperones Marie Saporito and Tom Morrison. We had a great turnout from our Cal Ripken ball players, led by Jim Edelman and Stephen Graves. And as always, thank you to our dedicated Fire Department and Chief Ray Tryon.

Special thanks to Dean Amidon for his energetic job as M.C., and for all his hard work organizing the memorial service and parade, to Reverend Art Monk for his remarks, and to our veterans. Thank you to Police Chief Gareth Backhaus and our devoted officers for keeping the parade route safe.

Summer in Monterey Parks

Lake Garfield Beach Lifeguards will be on duty starting June 23.

Swimming lessons will be held beginning July 17 at the Lake Garfield town beach. A sign-up sheet and further information will be posted at the beach at the end of June. Look for new playground equipment in the summer!

My great appreciation goes to Kenn Basler and Joel Schick for gathering together a fabulous band of musicians who donated their time to entertain us all.

Lastly, many thanks to Bob Rausch for finding four volunteers from Gould Farm to cook and serve the refreshments; although a family emergency took Bob out of town, Katie, Ben, Michelle, and Eric devoted a big chunk of their time and energy to setting up, cooking, serving, and cleaning up.

— Lisa Smyle, Parade Coordinator

And More Thanks

To the Editor:

My heartfelt thanks to the person who found my purse in the post office, and turned it in. Thank you.

— Leona Chamberlain

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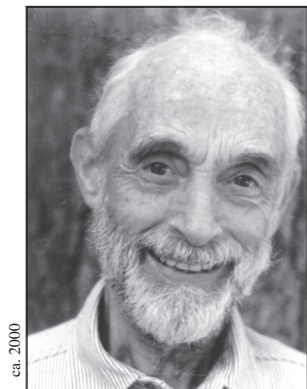
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Remembering David Park McAllester

David Park McAllester, 89, a long-time stalwart of the Monterey community, died Sunday morning, April 30, at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield, three days after suffering a stroke.

He was born in 1916 in Everett, Massachusetts, where he developed an early interest in the Native American way of life, thanks to the writing of Ernest Thompson Seton, and because he was himself part Narragansett. After attending public schools in Everett he went to Harvard University, where he earned his BA in Anthropology, then to the Julliard School of Musical Arts, and then to Columbia University for a PhD in anthropology in 1949.

McAllester began teaching at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, in 1947, founded the Department of Anthropology there, and cofounded the ethnomusicology program. In 1952 he was

one of the four founders of the Society for Ethnomusicology and over the years served as president of the society, editor of its journal, secretary-treasurer, and in several other positions.

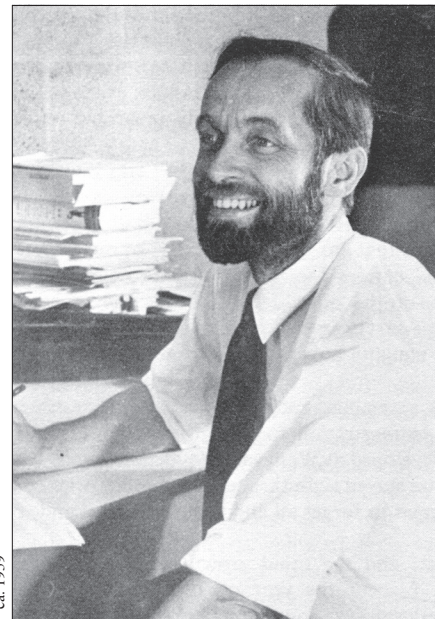
Wesleyan was McAllester's home for 39 years, but he was also a visiting professor at the University of Hawaii, Yale University, Brown University, Smith College, Williams College, University of Oklahoma, Simon's Rock of Bard College, the Academy of Gamelan Arts in Surakarta, Java, and University of Sydney and Queensland University in Australia.

McAllester was known internationally for his scholarly works and publications on many aspects of world music (ethnomusicology), but his particular field was Native American ceremonial music, especially that of the Navajos of the American Southwest. He was the recipient of many academic honors, including a John Simon Guggenheim grant for research in Navajo ceremonialism, which supported his making of a film on the subject in 1957. His major publications include *Peyote Music*, *Enemy Way Music*, *Myth and Prayers of the Great Star Chant*, *Navajo Blessingway Singer* (coeditor with Charlotte J. Frisbie), *Hogans*, *Navajo Houses and House Songs* (coauthor with Susan W. McAllester), and over one hundred articles and reviews and three recordings. He was editor of the *Monterey News* from 1986 to 1990.

During his teaching career McAllester inspired generations of students with his sparkling enthusiasm for his subject. He was always pleased to be asked to give community lectures for schools, scout groups, historical societies, retirement homes, summer camps, and Quaker Sunday School classes, where he taught Navajo social dances and corn-grinding songs. In these settings, as well as on college campuses, he, sang, danced, and taught all at the same time and was well loved by his audiences.

McAllester made his own tipi and wigwam and enjoyed singing and telling stories around a small fire. He retired to Monterey in 1986 with his first wife, Susan W. McAllester, and became active in community life. With several others, the McAllesters founded the South Berkshire Friends Meeting (Quakers), where he served as clerk of the meeting and was a

member of several committees. He set up a tipi on the grounds of the Friends Meeting and helped construct a swamp trail around the beaver pond. He was at home in the scholarly world, on campus, in silent Quaker worship, with small children, and in a canoe. He especially loved the New England woods and wetlands and was thrilled by rocks.



In his retirement, McAllester wrote a family history of more than 1,000 pages, including excerpts from diaries, journals, letters, publications, photographs, drawings, musical compositions, and sketches of friends, colleagues, and others who affected the family in the U.S. and in several countries abroad.

After the death of Susan McAllester in 1994, he married Beryl Irene Courtenay and enjoyed ten years with her in Monterey. He is survived by her and by his son Burling Vincent McAllester of San Francisco, California, and his daughter Bonner Jean McAllester, son-in-law Joe Baker, and granddaughters Sudi Sparrow Baker and Cora Jay Baker, all of Monterey.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 17, at the South Berkshire Friends Meeting at 280 State Road (Rte. 23) in Great Barrington. Another memorial service will take place in the Memorial Chapel at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, on September 24, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to the American Friends Service Committee, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.

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The Observer April 26–May 25

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 Avg. low temp. 40.9°
 Avg. temp. 50.5°
 Total rainfall..... 5.88 in.
 Rainfall occurred on 18 days, 14 of which were consecutive.

CET Representative at Transfer Station June 11

A representative from the Center For Ecological Technology (CET) will be on hand to welcome residents and answer questions at the Monterey transfer station on Sunday, June 11. Alison Lesht, CET's Americorps VISTA intern, will be at the station from 1 to 3 p.m. with information about recycling, hazardous waste management, and waste reduction. The recycling center Sunday hours are 10 a.m.–6 p.m. If you have any questions before the event or would like more information, please call Alison Lesht at 413-445-4556 ext 17 or email her at alisonl@cetonline.org.

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